

WI-379

c. 1911

Alonzo L. Williams House

Salisbury vicinity

Private

Placed on a gentle rise of land and built atop a raised brick foundation, the Alonzo L. Williams house is a prominent fixture along the stretch of Nanticoke Road between Salisbury and the road to Upper Ferry. The Colonial Revival inspired dwelling was designed on a generously sized center hall/double pile plan. The house was executed on a high standard with oak floors and high quality woodwork throughout eight principal rooms. Pocket doors originally separated the two front rooms front the center hall, which contains a turned baluster staircase executed with classical dentil moldings. Colonial Revival mantels frame the first floor fireplaces.

The land on which this house was built includes portions of tracts known as "Handy's Purchase" and "Spence's Choice," which Alonzo L. Williams acquired in 1888. His father farmed the land on the north side of Nanticoke Road on what was known as the "Home Farm." Alonzo L. Williams retained ownership of this prominent farm until 1919 when he sold the property to Carter Denson. Alonzo moved to Salisbury and acquired a third interest in the family's shipbuilding business.

## MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Alonzo L. Williams House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-379

## MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance  
1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s): Single family dwelling

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF**  
**HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. WI-379

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Alonzo L. Williams House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 27311 Nanticoke Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Salisbury ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Hamilton and Kathy Fox

street & number 6068 Fox Lane telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21801

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WI-379

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Alonzo L. Williams house is located at 27311 Nanticoke Road west of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story frame house faces north with the steeply pitched hip roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Dating around 1911, the two-and-a-half story, center hall/double-pile frame dwelling is supported on a seven-course common bond foundation that was excavated to include a full cellar. The exterior is clad with plain weatherboard siding, and the steeply pitched hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the original house is a single story garage. Also located on the property are several chicken houses, a brick foundation of a former bank barn, and several renovated houses as separate residences.

The north (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking twelve-over-one sash windows. The raised six-panel front door is framed by sidelights and a transom featuring x-shaped muntins. Each of the window and door openings have a slight cornice molding. Sheltering the entire front of the house is a two-story columned portico attached during the past thirty years. It replaced a single story Tuscan columned porch. The second floor is lighted by twelve-over-one sash windows. A paired set of twelve-over-one sash windows occupy the center bay. Fixed atop the roof is a large gabled dormer featuring twelve-over-one sash windows. The roof of the dormer is finished with a pediment front. Located to each side are pediment front gabled dormers filled with sixteen-pane windows.

The west side is two bays deep with twelve-over-one sash windows lighting the first and second floors. Louvered shutters flank the windows. Lighting the cellar are three-pane windows. An interior brick stack finished with a corbeled cap rises through the side wall.

The east side features a single-story screened in porch added during the past thirty years. Adjacent to the porch is a single-story bay window that is pierced by twelve-over-one sash windows. The second floor is lighted by twelve-over-one sash windows as well and a second brick chimney rises through the roof.

The north side is partially covered by a single-story garage and a two-story, one-bay wide rear ell.

The interior is divided into four main rooms that are disposed around a center stairhall. The front rooms are separated from the hall by large double door openings fitted with pocket doors. The doors to the west room have been removed. The floors are oak as is most of the interior woodwork. Framing the fireboxes are Colonial Revival mantels. The staircase has a square newel post topped by beveled edge caps featuring a dentiled bed molding. The newel post and a series of turned balusters support a molded handrail. The turned baluster railing continues around to the second floor attic stair. A few gas lines from the original lighting system remain in the house.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-379

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Placed on a gentle rise of land and built atop a raised brick foundation, the Alonzo L. Williams house is a prominent feature along the stretch of Nanticoke Road between Salisbury and the road to Upper Ferry. The Colonial Revival inspired dwelling was designed on a generously sized center hall/double pile plan. The house was executed on a high standard with oak floors and well-executed woodwork throughout eight principal rooms. Pocket doors originally separated the two front rooms front the center hall, which contains a turned baluster staircase executed with classical dentil moldings. Colonial Revival mantels frame the first floor fireplaces.

The land on which this house was built includes portions of tracts known as “Handy’s Purchase” and “Spence’s Choice,” which Alonzo L. Williams acquired in 1888.<sup>1</sup> His father farmed the land on the north side of Nanticoke Road on what was known as the “Home Farm.”<sup>2</sup> Alonzo L. Williams retained ownership of this prominent farm until 1919 when he sold the property to Carter Denson.<sup>3</sup> Alonzo moved to Salisbury and acquired a third interest in the family’s shipbuilding business.<sup>4</sup>

The house deserves listing in *Category B*, which identifies buildings of substantial architectural and historical merit.

<sup>1</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, FMS 4/186, 17 November 1888.

<sup>2</sup> Phone conversation with John Jacob, grandson of Alonzo L. Williams, 20 June 1998.

<sup>3</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, JCK 112/462, 22 April 1919.

<sup>4</sup> John Jacob communication.



WI-379  
Alonzo L. Williams House  
Salisbury vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title

1226/579                      Drucilla Cantrell Fox

to

8/7/1990                      Hamilton P. Fox

850/440                      Hamilton P. Fox  
Drucilla Cantrell Fox

to

1/23/1976                      Drucilla Cantrell Fox

A J S 825/720                      Hamilton P. Fox

to

8/1/1974                      Hamilton P. Fox  
Drucilla Cantrell Fox

JWTS 806/78                      Charles O. Hughes, et al.

to

11/14/1973                      Hamilton P. Fox

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Alonzo L. Williams House  
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Chain of title continued

JWTS 367/415                      Maurice A. Wilkins  
   Virginia B. Wilkins

to

12/20/1965                      Hamilton P. Fox, Jr.  
   Evelyn Jefferson Fox

IDT 204/92                      Richard H. Fletcher and wife

to

10/15/1937                      Maurice A. Wilkins

66.93 acres

IDT 176/531                      John W. Pyle  
   Marian L. Pyle

to

10/26/1932                      Richard H. Fletcher

\$5,500 balance due on mortgage



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Chain of title continued

IDT 166/518                      Emma C. Holloway, single

to

2/3/1931                      John W. Pyle  
                                      Marian L. Pyle

66.93 acres

IDT 166/517                      John W. Pyle and wife

to

2/3/1931                      Emma C. Holloway

JCK 133/571                      Mark O. Shriver, Jr. Baltimore City, trustee

to

3/13/1924                      John W. Pyle

JCK 114/151                      Carter Denson

to

10/14/1919                      John W. Pyle  
                                      Harry O. Pyle

“The Sunny Slope Farm”

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Alonzo L. Williams House  
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Chain of title continued

JCK 112/462

Alonzo L. Williams  
Alice C. Williams

to

4/22/1919

Carter Denson, Wicomico County

\$1,000 69.93 acres

FMS 4/186

Orlando W. Taylor  
Anna B. Taylor

to

11/17/1888

Alonzo L. Williams

\$2,000 "Handy's Purchase"  
"Spence's Choice"

MARYLAND )  
LOGICAL SURVEY

EDEN QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES ORTHOPHOTOMAP (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5880' NE  
IDELMA



WI-379  
Alonzo L. Williams House  
Salisbury vicinity  
  
Eden, Maryland Quadrangle  
1983